

# PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

## Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism: The Medical and Psychological Consequences of Toxic Industrial Chemicals and Toxic Industrial Materials

(An abbreviated presentation of an original course developed by the American College of Medical Toxicology)

### Satellite Conference

**Thursday, August 12, 2004, 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Central Time)**

**1:00-2:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) • 10:00-11:30 a.m. (Pacific Time)**

In recent years, there has been growing concern that many of the most likely threats of chemical terrorism involve so-called "agents of opportunity". Both common and unusual industrial agents may pose a considerable threat as potential terrorist weapons. While an understanding of the traditional military chemical weapons (i.e. nerve agents) remains essential, an appreciation of the myriad of other potential toxic chemicals readily available in our society is crucial if we are to optimally prepare, identify, and defend against chemical threats.

The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) is the major professional organization of physicians specializing in medical toxicology in the United States. With the support of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), ACMT has developed a course, "Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism: The Medical and Psychological Consequences of Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TICs) and Toxic Industrial Materials (TIMs)" on the medical response to chemical terrorism and mass chemical exposure incidents. This course has been given nationally in the past 1 1/2 years and most recently in Birmingham, Alabama in April 2004. This presentation by Dr. Liebelt, a member of ACMT, will provide an overview of the topic of "Chemical Agents of Opportunity".

Specifically, a brief history of the use of TICs and TIMs in mass chemical exposures will be discussed followed by a discussion on selected toxic gases which can be found in our communities. Cyanide and fumigants are a great concern for many reasons. Water and food may be used as vehicles for chemical terrorism and several examples will be discussed.

---

#### **Faculty:**

**Erica L. Liebelt, MD**

Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine, University of Alabama Birmingham School of Medicine  
Director of Medical Toxicology Services, Children's Hospital and University of Alabama Birmingham Hospitals  
Scientist, UAB Center for Emergency Care and Disaster Preparedness  
Co-Medical Director of the Regional Poison Control Center

---

#### **Objectives:**

1. Understand the concept of chemical agents of opportunity, Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TICs) and Toxic Industrial Materials (TIMs) and appreciate the basis for increased public health preparedness.
2. Identify chemical agents of opportunity that could be used by terrorists and different modalities by which they can be distributed or released.
3. Describe the major health effects of TICs, TIMs and other important non-volatile chemical agents that could be used by terrorists.
4. Understand the psychological impact of mass chemical exposures.

---

#### **Conference Details:**

**Target Audience:** Public health professionals and their partners with whom they will need to communicate in a public health emergency. **Registration:** [www.adph.org/alphn](http://www.adph.org/alphn) **Cost:** No cost. **CEU's:** No CEU's for this satellite conference

**Satellite Coordinates:** C & Ku Band. **Conference Materials:** Posted on our website approximately one week before the program. **Questions:** [alphn@adph.state.al.us](mailto:alphn@adph.state.al.us) or 334-206-5618

**Webcast:** This conference will be an archived webcast beginning Thursday, August 26, 2004.

**Issues or questions you want addressed during the conference?**

Email ([alphn@adph.state.al.us](mailto:alphn@adph.state.al.us)) or fax (334-206-5640) the conference faculty. They will respond during the program.